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CIA 1.04 Marchetti
Victor

CIA 4.01 Frederick
Praeger
P. Praeger, Frederick

Howard Hunt Assigned to Work With Publishers

CIA Subsidized Dozens of Books

By Norman Kempster

Washington Star Staff Writer

In an apparent violation of its charter, the CIA has secretly subsidized the publication and distribution in the United States of dozens of books on communism and other foreign policy subjects.

Frederick Praeger, former owner of the publishing house that bears his name, said his firm handled between 20 and 25 books subsidized by the CIA before the company's sale in 1966 to Encyclopedia Britannica.

In a telephone interview, Praeger

said other firms also have published books backed by the agency but he declined to supply any names.

"I can assure you some of the most respected names in the publishing industry participated," he said.

Praeger said E. Howard Hunt, the former CIA official who was convicted of conspiracy in the Watergate scandal, served in the late 1960s as the agency's "case officer" dealing with book publishing firms.

SINCE ITS inception in 1947, the CIA has been prohibited by its charter from engaging in activities in the

United States. It is specifically barred from spreading covert propaganda to be read by Americans.

Praeger said he did not consider any of the CIA-subsidized books he published to be "propaganda." Instead, he said, they were "legitimate research" on subjects of interest to the agency which lacked the broad popular appeal necessary for commercial publication.

"The CIA made it possible for authors to travel and we sometimes had contracts with these authors," he said.



VICTOR MARCHETTI
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CIA 3.01.3 Journalists
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CIA 1.04 HUNT, HOWARD

CIA 4.01 Doubleday

Soc 4.01.2 The Penkovsky Papers

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